

## THE TIMES

PUBLISHED BY  
THE TIMES COMPANY  
TENTH AND BANK STREETS,  
RICHMOND, VA.

THE DAILY TIMES is served by carriers on their own account in this city, Manchester and Barton Heights for 12 cents a week, 50 cents a month, \$5.00 a year; by mail 50 cents a month, \$5.00 a year.

THE SUNDAY TIMES—Three cents per copy, \$1.50 a year.  
THE WEEKLY TIMES—Issued and mailed in two parts—One dollar a year by mail.

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The Manchester carrier of The Times is D. M. Whitshire, 519 West Twelfth street, where subscriptions can be left.

PETERSBURG BUREAU, 109 SYCAMORE STREET.

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THE CIRCULATION OF THE TIMES IS LARGER THAN EVER BEFORE IN ITS HISTORY, AND IS STEADILY INCREASING.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1893.

## SIX PAGES.

The Brooklyn Eagle says:

"The last person named Sherman, whose words concerning a public event, were accepted without question, died when the general of the army of the United States ceased from life."

Has our contemporary forgotten that General Sherman once made a statement at G. A. R. banquet about "a letter written by a Southern general then a Senator of the United States," which stated that President Davis had told him that he (Davis) would turn the guns of Lee's army on any Southern State which attempted to secede; that this story Mr. Davis pronounced a base falsehood, and defied the General to prove his statement; that the General miserably failed to do so, and quietly let the matter pass into oblivion, as he hoped? Then, does our contemporary not remember that General Fry, of the United States army, proved positively, by publishing a letter written by General Sherman, that the General had once denounced General Grant after he had denied it? It was only a few years ago that these things happened, and they show that Senator Sherman is not the only one of his name "whose words concerning a public event would not be accepted without question."

It will be easily remembered that a short time ago a negro, who had committed a crime, was lynched in Decatur, Macon county, Illinois, and the grand jury failed to find indictments against any of the lynchers. This has led the Chicago Herald to say: "The people of Macon county in dealing with this lynching have simply looked beyond the work of the mob to the crime charged and proved, though not in a formal and legal way, against the negro. While they disapprove of the mob's action they more emphatically disapprove of the fustian of which they believe the negro to have been guilty. They cannot escape the conclusion that his punishment was no worse than it should have been, and believing this, they refuse to enforce the law against the men who dragged him to his death. It powerfully demonstrates a fact which many people frequently ignore, that no law is capable of enforcement unless it is backed by a vigorous public sentiment."

We have received an illustrated pamphlet about the Drexel Institute at Philadelphia. The little work graphically describes this admirable institute of art, science and industry, and the illustrations show its perfect adaptation to the purposes for which it is designed. The president's office, library, reading-room, the great court, the auditorium and the antique room are all portrayed, and they plainly show the generous liberality of the deceased philanthropist, who gave this great institute to the people of Philadelphia. That city was fortunate in possessing such a citizen, and will surely miss both him and his generosity.

The death of Judge Samuel Blatchford will enable the President to appoint a Democrat as his successor. In that event Chief Justice Fuller and Justice Field, Jackson and Justice Blatchford's successor will be Democrats, while the other five justices will be Republicans, giving the latter one majority in the entire court.

All the reports which are put out about the President's illness are foolish nonsense, gotten up by speculators to frighten and rob the timid. If Mr. Cleveland ever gets seriously sick, the public will immediately know it, for he himself would be the first to tell it.

O'Donovan Rossa has given out a story that the English Government has set aside \$1,000,000 to secure his assassination. This has a decided flavor of Munchausenism about it. The British Government would not give a farthing if all the O'Donovan family were dead.

The question of Sunday opening of the Chicago Fair will soon settle itself. The Sunday attendance is very poor and steadily growing less, so that in one or two brief weeks it will hardly pay to open the doors at all.

## MURDER BY MOB.

The Times has repeatedly and most earnestly deplored the tendency of the people of the United States to wreak vengeance by mob violence for any great outrage in their communities.

This spirit, unless repressed, will utterly disjoin society and overturn the courts. It will simply and surely result in the abandonment of law and the substitution of might for right. The weak will go to the wall, and bloody violence triumph over all.

The minds of our fellow citizens must be sternly set against any lynching, no matter what the outrage may be. It has been often shown that just as surely as lynching is justified for certain very atrocious crimes, when those crimes occur, the mob, bent on a "lynching bee," look for a victim, and the greater the crime the easier it is to persuade the mob of the guilt of any suspected person, so on evidence so light that a dog would not be whipped, a man is hanged up and riddled with bullets, and then we have such telegrams as this:

"LYNCHED THE WRONG MAN.—Millen, Tenn., June 18.—The mob which was supposed to have lynched Lee Bennett, at Glenison, hanged James Harris, an innocent man, instead. Bennett is in jail at Dresden, heavily guarded."

It now turns out that the mob in Kentucky who wished to avenge the murder of the Ray sisters have themselves committed a most fiendish murder in the lynching of Miller. Every man in that crowd who aided and abetted in the hanging of Miller is a murderer. The man protested his innocence, but no chance was given him, not even a day or an hour, to prove an alibi. He was barely saved from being burned alive by the father of the dead girls, who doubted if indeed the prisoner was guilty.

No sort of palliation can be suggested to retrieve the blackness of the guilt of the mob. The law should be sternly enforced against every man of them.

## MAJOR SCOTT'S LETTER TO MR. EPES.

We have a great regard for the opinion of Major F. R. Scott, vice-president of the Merchants' National Bank, of this city, on any question relating to the finances of the country, and we have often listened with pleasure to his unanswerable arguments in favor of a State bank currency. When Major Scott stood flatfooted and unconditionally upon the proposition that the whole business of currency issued belonged to the people of the States, and not to the United States, he stood upon a position that was as solid as the everlasting hills, and beyond the reach of successful assault from any quarter. But Major Scott's views have manifestly undergone a change, and he has now abandoned that solid ground which enabled him to defy all attack, and has taken up new ground in his letter to Mr. James F. Epes, which is totally untenable and liable to all the strongest objections that can be made to a centralized social government.

Major Scott says: "What is the remedy? It is very simple, and would prove very effective. It is the enactment by Congress of a general banking law for the whole country, under which all banks chartered by the States might issue currency free from the ten per cent. tax. That currency might be made as safe as any ever issued by following restrictions and limitations."

Which restrictions and limitations he then proceeds to enumerate. If Major Scott had stopped with the statement that everything would come right as soon as the Government of the United States ceased to impose its confiscatory and unconstitutional tax of ten per cent. on the issues of State banks, he would have covered the whole ground, and he would have defined all that is necessary for remedying the evils from which the country is suffering.

But, though he has not said so in express terms, he plainly means that State banks which will comply with certain terms to be exacted by an act of Congress will be allowed to issue notes without paying the ten per cent. tax, while those which will not comply with those terms will be required to pay the tax, which is an unconditional grant of control of the subject to Congress.

If any one had said to Mr. Webster or Mr. Calhoun, or Mr. Clay or General Washington or Chief Justice Marshall that a time was approaching when the Congress of the United States would impose a tax on the notes of State banks, not to raise a revenue for the support of the Government, but to forbid an ordinary business agency to transact its ordinary business, any one of those gentlemen to whom the remark was made would have replied that such a thing was impossible. He would have said that we had established a Government here that was to have no sort of power to interfere with the citizen in the ordinary affairs of life. That it was given by the Constitution of its existence power to legislate regarding certain general matters, in which all the people were concerned, which matters were named in it, but that it was denied all power to legislate concerning any other matters whatever. They would have been shocked at the suggestion which imputed to them an intention to establish a socialist's government where the government took care of the business of the citizen, instead of the citizen taking care of the government. This was the idea of our Government, as it was ordained and established, and as we lived under it until the war came on. During the period of the war, the Government thought it necessary to enlarge its powers beyond those given to it, so as to coerce all the resources of the country into its service. Money was as necessary to it as men, and it usurped a power to extinguish State bank currency as part of its process for monopolizing in itself all the financial resources of the land. There was no authority for this in the Constitution, but the desperate men who controlled the Government in those days made the provision of the Constitution which authorizes Congress to "coin money and regulate the value thereof" expand so as to authorize Congress to issue paper dollars, and to forbid all competing issues of paper money.

It is, of course, preposterous to say that a power to "coin money and regulate the value thereof" could be intended to authorize Congress to issue paper money. But it afforded excuse enough for the revolutionary men who controlled the Government in war times. The whole power rests right here, and it is no power at all. We are done with the war, and should be done with war measures. It is time we were returning to the form of government which was

originally intended for us—the best that could possibly be framed.

Major Scott's proposition in authorizing Congress to name terms to State banks claims for the general Government the right which the war politicians asserted, and that is one which we shall never concede. It is repugnant to the Constitution, and in imputing to the Government a power and duty to watch over and guard the citizen in his trades for negotiable paper, it admits the whole case of the socialist, and turns us from a state of "liberty regulated by law" to that state of tyranny which prevails under a paternal government. It is time we were turning our backs on all such suggestions and getting again to the only true Government, which allows all citizens, while respecting the rights of others, to do as they please.

## NEW YORK ANARCHISTS.

The anarchists of New York had a good time a day or two ago, meeting at the Windsor Theatre and denouncing the Government, the police and property-holders in general, but they did not dare do more than talk. Had they attempted to carry their words into effect policemen were present to take them in charge and permit them to brood in a quiet jail over the troubles brought upon themselves by trying to live without working.

The kind of stuff which these gentry indulged in is shown by the statement that "the working class of America work harder, sweat fiercer, have less to eat and to wear, obtain fewer rewards for their toil and come sooner to the end of their persecuted and wretched lives than any other class of workers on the face of the earth." There is not a workman, even the humblest, in America who does not know that such stuff as this is the veriest nonsense. It has long been the boast that all classes of American workmen are better paid than any other in the world, and while this is not true, as far as British workmen are concerned, because, though an American workman gets more dollars and cents than his British brother, the money of the latter has, on account of our high protective tariff, greater purchasing power, still our working classes have better opportunities for good living and the pursuit of happiness than any other such classes in Great Britain or elsewhere. These New York Anarchists were, therefore, talking to hear themselves talk. They powdered and made a big fuss generally, and then adjourned, but the eyes of the policemen present were on them all the time, and they all dispersed as quietly as if they were the most law-abiding people in the world.

All this illustrates the greatness of this great country. The Anarchists could talk as freely as if they were carrying on a religious meeting, and no one made any effort to disturb them. So long as they stuck to talking there was no danger of their being interfered with, and they might have yelled themselves hoarse denouncing the people, the Government, the country, and even the President himself, without molestation, but had they moved one little finger towards putting their incendiary words into action, had they lighted one match or made a single motion to burn a house or destroy any property whatever, in a second they would have found themselves firmly clutched by the hands of the law.

This is, indeed, a free country, where talk is cheap, but where the slightest infraction of the law is met with prompt penalty. These Anarchists have good reason to know when they recall the hanging of several of their members a few years ago in Chicago. That ought to teach them that in this Federal republic of ours liberty does not mean license, and that crime and punishment go hand in hand together.

## SENATOR SHERMAN'S UNSOUND FINANCE.

Senator John Sherman says in his letter to Congressman Walker, of Massachusetts, "provisions should be made for full legal tender of United States notes, supported by reserves of both gold and silver, and backed by the credit and wealth of the United States."

The sole power of Congress to issue notes, which are to be legal tender for debt, is found in the provision of the Constitution which provides that "Congress shall have power to coin money and regulate the value thereof." When the right of Congress to issue legal tender notes was challenged, directly after the war, the Supreme Court of the United States consisted of seven judges. It decided by the vote of four to three that Congress had no such power. Thereupon the Republican Congress passed an act providing that the Supreme Court should thereafter consist of nine judges, and General Grant appointed to it two judges who were known to be "greenbackers," and the court reversed its previous decision by a vote of five to four. Thus it has come about that Congress is held to have power to issue legal tender notes. Mr. Sherman was one of the Republican politicians who debauched the Supreme Court, and placed this everlasting stigma upon our Government, and, as a matter of course, he stands up for the socialist doctrine which he thus took part in incorporating into the theory of our Government. But is it not time that honest men, who have their country's welfare at heart, should spurn aside a principle of government grafted on our Constitution by such a dishonest and infamous measure as this? Is it not time that we were returning to the old landmarks and confining the Government to its true limits, leaving the citizen to go on about his usual business under the control of his local authorities to work out the destiny of an independent man through the methods of self-reliance and his own watchfulness?

Mr. Sherman adds: "For one I will never agree to the renewal of State bank paper money, which cannot be made a legal tender, and which, on the first sign of alarm, will disappear or be lost in the hands of the holder."

In 1860 the banks of Virginia had \$18,000,000 of capital and \$12,000,000 of notes out. The notes were as good as gold, and everybody in Virginia was able to get accommodations at bank whenever he needed them. The rate of interest was always lower than in Richmond and Petersburg in New York. This State bank currency was as good as any currency can be, and it was so abundant that all men could be served with it at all times. Why can we not have just the same State bank currency again? And if we can have it in Vir-

ginia, why can it not be had in all the other States?

It can. All that is needed is that Government shall take off its hand and allow business to make its own rules. As water runs down hill, so will business find all the methods that are necessary for its own safe conduct, if only left to itself.

## A Business Lesson.

According to recent advices received at Vancouver, B. C., the financial and business situation in Australia has become exceedingly serious, and not positively alarming. The recent bank failures have made it impossible to meet the payments due for public works, and the discontent among the unemployed, especially in Sydney and Brisbane, threatens to assume the form of an open outbreak. A correspondent of the New York Times, writing from Melbourne, Victoria, under date of May 27th, describes at length the causes which have produced the present crisis in a country which Australians formerly boasted was the workman's paradise.

The seven colonies of New Zealand, Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and West Australia, form what is known as Australasia, the last five enumerated being known as Australia. They are united, however, in nothing but in name. Each colony has its own independent form of government, each has erected a Chinese tariff wall against the other, and "each separate system of railroads is so feebly distinct from every other as to have different gauges for its tracks, so that a change of cars is necessary, and a re-handling of freight compulsory in crossing from any one colony into another." The area of the seven colonies is almost equal in extent to the United States, stretching from latitude 11 degrees south to 53 degrees north, and "yielding in production all the vegetable and annual products of the torrid and temperate zones." Its mineral wealth is inexhaustible, and its vast and productive territory is well adapted to support a population of less than 4,000,000, and yet, in the midst of natural abundance without limit, its financial institutions are collapsing and its labor plunged into desperate distress.

The result of the situation is found in several causes. One of the principal of these was the craze for railroads and other public works, which were often built without regard to necessity or expense. As the governments were largely dependent on the local Parliament, the politicians in the local Parliaments determined to make themselves strong with their constituents by grabbing their share of what they regarded as "public plunder." "Public works" essential roads were built between important points, thousands of miles of railroads that are now either rusty and rotting tracks, or maintained at a great expense, were built out into the bush, where no one lived, and the lines were essentially derelict from the best, because the cheapest, course to accommodate some particularly influential constituent.

The result of all this is seen in the fact that the cost of the larger part of which was contracted to build the 11,500 miles of railroads in the colonies. This debt in 1891 was \$92,825,635, and in the same year the public expenditures exceeded the receipts by \$5,222,000, which had to be met by another loan. Nearly all, if not all, of the principal is held in England, and the immense sums of interest that are yearly paid out to the English holders of the bonded indebtedness forms a cruel drain upon the resources of the colonies.

This boom in public improvements also had another result. It collected from all quarters great numbers of skilled and unskilled workmen, and during the rush times of railroad and dock construction, and the erection of public buildings, received lavish wages. When it was found that the boom was costing more than it paid, and it was necessary to adopt a policy of retrenchment, of retrenchment, thousands of workmen were thrown out of employment, and drifted to the cities, already unnaturally congested.

There, without work or means of livelihood, they have become desperate and dangerous, and threaten the Governments, which they have become accustomed to regard as pledged to their support. Out of a population of less than 4,000,000, the Australian colonies have concentrated in the cities and towns, "the cities are entirely abnormal in their growth," the outcome of the policy of forced material development.

Australasia's experience shows once more that the boasted "free" and "open" healthy system of development, and that government paternalism may result not only in embarrassment for itself and the general public, but in pauperism for the people.

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George Taylor Christian, oldest son of Mr. J. D. Christian, president of the J. D. & R. S. Christian Company, is critically ill of typhoid fever at his father's residence, No. 33 north Twelfth street. His wife, daughter, Ida, is also quite sick in Baltimore, where she has gone on a visit.

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